



401 N. Morton, Ste. 250 **Bloomington IN 47404** 



# **GET INVOLVED ... VOLUNTEER!**

City of Bloomington Parks and Recreation Department volunteers provide valuable services to the community by assisting in many events and programs in a variety of ways. Volunteers can participate on a regular basis or on occasion as desired. There are many opportunities to choose from and an assortment of times and days available.

#### Volunteer opportunities exist in the following areas:

- Adult sports
- Clerical services
- Community events
- Cultural arts
- Environmental efforts
- Farmers' Market
- Health and Wellness • Inclusion programs
- Park projects
- Research/surveys
- Senior citizen programs
- Sustainability efforts
- Trail maintenance
- Tree planting
- Youth sports
- Youth programs

If you would like to be a volunteer with the City of Bloomington Parks and Recreation Department contact Kim Ecenbarger at (812) 349-3739 or ecenbark@bloomington.in.gov.

City of Bloomington Parks and Recreation Department • Volunteer Opportunities 401 N. Morton, Ste. 250 • Bloomington IN 47404

### Make friends • Earn service learning credits Gain experience • Have fun

### EVENT VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

TRAINING: Volunteers will be trained at the beginning of their shifts.

## Children's Expo

#### Friday, February 7/Event Setup Saturday, February 8/Event

**CALL OF THE WILD**—It's the 29th annual Children's Expo and Health Fair featuring FREE health screenings for children ages 10 years and younger. Health screenings ensure that children are able to excel in school with no barriers to learning. Parents can explore the expo hall with its interactive booths,

live entertainment, and exhibitors with products and services just for children and families. Calling all volunteers interested in child development. Transform

a school into a wild safari, help professionals perform children's health screenings, assist at the welcome table, provide vendor

hospitality and much more!

Friday setup, 4-7 p.m./Saturday Shift #1, 7:30-11 a.m. **Program Time:** Saturday Shift #2, 10:45 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

Batchelor Middle School, 900 W. Gordon Pk

Age of Volunteers: 16 yrs and up Number of Volunteers: 15-20 per shift

#### **Seusspicious Behavior**

#### Saturday, March 1

Celebrate the birthday of Dr. Seuss, come have some fun and let loose A Seusstastic time for big or small, we can't wait to see you all! Visit the Monroe County Public Library for a Read Across America birthday celebration for Dr. Seuss. See a live performance by Bloomington High School North students of a Dr. Seuss book, make Seusspicious crafts, play Seussrific games, and enjoy a healthy birthday treat!

Seuss-like volunteers are needed to assist with **Duties:** 

hands-on activities that include crafts and games. In addition, assist with setup and teardown of the event

**Program Time:** 

Location: Monroe County Public Library, 303 E. Kirkwood Ave.

Age of Volunteers: 16 yrs. and up

Number of Volunteers: 10

**Locations:** 

#### **Community Gardening**

#### Schedule a day, March-October

Grow closer to local food! Community Gardening grows both plants and community. Since 1984, the Parks and Recreation Department has offered community gardening opportunities for people of all ages and backgrounds. A favorite venue of volunteer groups, the gardens benefit from a number of service projects throughout the gardening season.

Volunteers assist the staff in maintaining paths, turning compost, **Duties:** 

and weeding as well as creating and maintaining ornamental,

wildlife, and demonstration plantings

**Program Time:** Schedule your group for a three- to four-hour shift.

Willie Streeter Community Garden or Rev. Ernest D. Butler Park

and Community Garden

Age of Volunteers: 12 yrs. and up Number of Volunteers: Groups of 5–25

#### **Volunteer to Maintain** our Natural Spaces

#### Schedule a day. March-November

Help maintain and restore some of Bloomington's most scenic natural areas. Many group volunteer projects are available in parks throughout the Bloomington community.

Staff will work with your group or organization to formulate a

work plan. Duties may include applying wood chips or gravel to paths, removing invasive plant species, trimming obstructive

vegetation, or re-routing trails.

**Program Time:** Schedule your group for a three- to four-hour shift. Leonard Springs Nature Park Trail, Griffy Lake Nature Preserve Locations:

Trail, Wapehani Mountain Bike Trail, Winslow Woods Trail, Twin Lakes Trail, and the Bloomington Rail Trail

Age of Volunteers: 12 yrs. and up

Number of Volunteers: 5-25

### **Leonard Springs Nature Days**



Tuesday, March 25 Tuesday, April 1 Tuesday, April 8 Tuesday, April 15 Tuesday, April 22 (Rain date)

Volunteer to teach area sixth grade students about our awesome natural heritage through

multiple stations including karst, creeks, wetlands, forests, and soils. If you have an interest in the outdoors and enjoy working with

children, sign up for our Leonard Springs Nature Days.

**Program Time:** 9:15 a.m.-2 p.m.

Location: Leonard Springs Nature Park, 4685 S. Leonard Springs Rd. Age of Volunteers: 18 yrs. and up

Number of Volunteers: 18 per day

#### Bloomington Girls Softball Player Assessment Day

Sunday, April 6

Designed for the beginning through advanced player, this league focuses on responsible competition, including skill building and a complete understanding of the game. This league offers several levels of play ranging from tee ball to fastpitch for players ages 4–15 yrs.

Pitch, hit, field, and throw. Volunteers step up to the plate and help with the player evaluation and team

placement process. In an effort to level the competition, players in each league are evaluated on their throwing, fielding, hitting, and catching abilities. Players are awarded a performance score, then are assigned a team. Volunteers assist sports staff in running stations and consistently evaluating player skill levels using an

evaluation tool.

11:30 a.m.-3 p.m. **Program Time:** Lower Cascades ballfields, 2851 N. Old State Rd. 37 Location:

Age of Volunteers: 18 yrs. and up

Number of Volunteers: 10

### Mad Egg Dash

### Friday, April 11 This isn't your grandma's egg hunt! Ditch the pink baskets and frilly bonnets because you'll need all your wits about you in this MAD

no-holds-barred, flashlights only, after-dark dash. The brand-new course at Bryan Park is filled with 3,000 plastic eggs—some have prizes inside, some have tickets for door prize drawings, and some are Rotten Eggs filled with ... nothing. When the starting horn sounds you'll make a mad dash to grab as many eggs as you can! The winning eggs go to the swift, the strategic, and the lucky.

Dash over and help the mad rabbit with course construction, pre-dash

activities, registration, and teardown. **Program Time:** 6·30–10 n m

Bryan Park, 1100 S. Woodlawn Ave.—Woodlawn Shelter Location: 18 yrs. and up

Age of Volunteers: Number of Volunteers: 15

### Global Youth Service Day Save the date! GYSD is April 11, 2014.



EGG

DASH

Join other teens for a fun-filled day of service, including park and trail cleanup, mural painting and more!



For more information, visit bloomingtonvolunteernetwork.org/gysd. Presented by:



Earth Week-Trail Cleanup Sunday, April 20

Celebrate Earth Week with a spring cleanup of the Lower Cascades Creek Trail. **Duties:** Immerse yourself in the wonders of nature at one of

Bloomington's most beautiful parks! Help us maintain our trails with a spring cleanup of Lower Cascades Creek Trail. We'll provide bags and gloves and together we'll keep our

trails litter free. **Program Time:** 1-3 p.m.

Lower Cascades Park, 2851 N. Old State Rd. 37—

Waterfall Shelter Earth Week Age of Volunteers: 10 yrs. and up

Number of Volunteers: 25

#### Earth Week-Lake Cleanup Thursday, April 24

Paddle around Griffy Lake and help clean up one of our most precious local resources during Earth Week

Celebrate our Earth and its amazing natural resources by **Duties:** volunteering to help keep our local lake clean and sparkling.

Bags, boats, and gloves are provided.

**Program Time:** 5:30–7:30 p.m.

Griffy Lake Nature Preserve, 3300 N. Headley Rd. Location For all ages (Children under age 14 yrs. must be accompanied

Age of Volunteers: by an adult.)

Number of Volunteers: 25–50

Bryan Park Creek Wednesday, May 7

**Maintenance Day** Bloomington Parks and Recreation has earned Community Wildlife Habitat certification from the National Wildlife Federation. The Bryan Park Creek naturalized area played a key role in certification and requires periodic maintenance to control invasive plant species and ensure native plant success.

Volunteers assist with monthly upkeep of this natural area along **Duties:** beautiful Bryan Park Creek. Help maintain native plants by cutting back overgrown brush, removing invasive plants, and collecting

native plant seeds.

**Program Time:** 5.30-7 n m

Location Bryan Park, 1100 S. Woodlawn Ave.—Woodlawn Shelter Age of Volunteers: 12 yrs. and up (Children under age 12 yrs. must be accompanied

Number of Volunteers: 5–30

Other: Program runs the first Wednesday of the month May-October.

#### Learn to Ride

**Duties:** 

## May 13-15 and May 20-22

Earth Week

Children will spend the entire summer cruising on their bicycles after this Bloomington Bikes Week program. Participants learn how to confidently and safely ride their bikes through individual instruction, and also learn about bike maintenance, road safety, and proper bike and helmet fittings

Proper instruction is an important aspect of bicycle riding.

Volunteers collaborate with Park staff to teach children riding etiquette and techniques that will keep them safe as they ride their bikes

**Program Time:** 4-5:30 p.m.

Bryan Park Pool, 1100 S. Woodlawn Ave.—parking lot Location:

Age of Volunteers: 16 yrs. and up Number of Volunteers: 8 per day

Other:

Sign up for one or both sessions of Learn to Ride. Volunteers will do a lot of running. Class will be rescheduled in case of

inclement weather

### The 50+ Expo-**Around the World**

#### Tuesday, May 13/Event Setup Wednesday, May 14/Event

50+ EXUL

The annual Senior Expo features free health screenings, plus an expo hall filled with exhibitors with information about products and services for seniors and their families

Volunteers may decorate, direct exhibitors **Duties:** 

to their spaces, greet participants, distribute 50+ Expo information, collect participant feedback, and tear down the event.

Tuesday: 3-6 p.m. (10-12 volunteers)/Event setup **Program Time:** Wednesday: Shift #1, 7–10 a.m. (5–7 volunteers)/Exhibit hall

assistants

Shift #2, 9:30-11:30 a.m. (2 volunteers)/Welcome table Shift #3, 11 a.m.–2 p.m. (2 volunteers)/General Expo

and evaluations

Shift #4, 11 a.m.-1:30 p.m. (2 volunteers)/Welcome table Shift #5, 2–4 p.m. (10 volunteers)/Event teardown Twin Lakes Recreation Center, 1700 W. Bloomfield Rd.

Location: Age of Volunteers: 16 yrs. and up

### Ferguson Dog Park Cleanup Days

**Duties:** 

Wednesday, May 14

Bloomington Parks and Recreation opened Ferguson Dog Park, a park specifically for dogs and their owners in fall 2012,. Our goal is to offer a safe and clean green space for dogs and their owners. Periodic maintenance and upkeep is needed to ensure our four-legged and twolegged visitors enjoy their experience.

Do-good animal owners and animal lovers needed to assist with monthly upkeep of this designated dog space at the Ferguson Dog Park. Help maintain play areas by clipping, clearing, and cleaning in celebration of our canine play area.

**Program Time:** 5:30-7 p.m.

Ferguson Dog Park, 1100 S. 4300 N. Stone Mill Rd. Location:

Age of Volunteers: 12 yrs. and up (Children under age 12 yrs. must be accompanied

by an adult.) Number of Volunteers: 5–30

Program runs the second Wednesday of the month May-October. Other:

### ONGOING VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

TRAINING: Volunteers are required to attend a volunteer orientation prior to program.

### Banneker at the View

Twice weekly, January 6-May 22

Help students excel in math and reading skills by volunteering to read with students and review basic school-age mathematics. Additionally, facilitate activities in art and science and engage children in active games that stimulate creativity and critical thinking.

Whether you enjoy working with youth or have professional aspirations to, this service opportunity gives you hands-on experience. Tutor one-on-one or in small groups twice weekly.

3:30-5 p.m. Program Time: Fairview Elementary School, 500 W. Eighth St. Location:

Age of Volunteers: 18 yrs. and up

Number of Volunteers: 8–10 per day, Monday–Thursday Other: We ask that you commit to two days a week for the

entire semester.

#### Bloomington Youth Basketball-Season III and Middle School

The Bloomington Youth Basketball League focuses on basketball fundamentals and the application of learned skills during game participation for players in grades K-Middle School. All leagues are coed through grade 3; girls play in a

March 30 BLOOMINGTON

January 15-

girls-only league beginning in grade 4. Season includes weekly practices and games one night a week. The season concludes with a single-elimination tournament. Teams practice two nights a week for the first two weeks of the season (practice times are decided by the coach), then one night a week for the remainder of the season. Practices begin the week of January 20. Games begin the week of February 3. Join us for the satisfaction of playing in a fun and positive setting where everyone learns the game of basketball.

We are looking for coaches who can commit to once -or twice-

weekly practices and one game per week. Volunteer coaches will enjoy making a difference in the lives of kids and can help develop our next big IU basketball star. (We suggest two coaches

Prospective coaches must sign up by Friday, January 10. Coach selection process completed by Tuesday, January 14. Selected coaches must attend mandatory coaches training on Wednesday, January 15, 7 p.m. or Thursday, January 16, 6 p.m. at the Twin Lakes Recreation Center.

All selected coaches must complete an online coaching certification course from the National Youth Sports Coaches Association (NYSCA). NYSCA certification must be completed by first practice. The certification fee for each coach is \$25. The online training is available at nays.org. Scholarships are available to offset expenses associated with the online training For scholarship information, contact Leslie Brinson at 349-3735 or

brinsonl@bloomington.in.gov. **Program Time:** Coaches plan and lead one or two one-hour practices per week and

one, one-hour game per week. Twin Lakes Recreation Center, 1700 W. Bloomfield Rd.

Age of Volunteers: 18 yrs. and up Number of Volunteers: 50

**Location:** 

Time line:

Other: Returning coaches have first priority for placement. Volunteers

should commit to the entire season

### **Soccer Sport Shorties**

Tuesdays, February 4-March 11

The indoor turf field at the Twin Lakes Recreation Center is the ideal place for preschool athletes to learn the basic skills of team soccer! Athletes take part in fun, recreational drills to develop kicking, passing, and ball handling skills in this weekly program.

Are you a soccer fanatic? Do you like children at **Duties:** the adorable ages of 3–6 yrs.? Here is your chance

to help us develop our next IU soccer superstar. Work with Bloomington Parks and Recreation staff to run an introductory soccer program geared toward preschoolers.

**Program Time:** 

Twin Lakes Recreation Center, 1700 W. Bloomfield Rd. Location:

Age of Volunteers: 16 vrs. and up Number of Volunteers: 2

Coaches' Orientation-Tuesday, February 4, 9 a.m. at the **Training:** 

Twin Lakes Recreation Center

### Adopt-a-Trail

**Duties:** 

April 2014-March 2015 Monthly inspections/ One-vear commitment

More than 30 trail miles in Bloomington's city parks need periodic inspections and maintenance to remain safe and usable. Volunteers have been valuable in establishing and maintaining our trails for many years. Parks and Recreation staff provide training and equipment to volunteer to individuals and groups of any size for monthly trail monitoring and annual trail maintenance.

> Inspect adopted trail at least once a month. Complete and submit reports on trail status. Provide maintenance as needed. Do at

> > least one work day per year. Staff works with your group or organization to formulate a work plan.

Time line: Volunteers must submit an online application by February 15. An orientation takes place in late March. One-year appointment

starts April 1.

**Program Time:** Trail inspections can be completed at your leisure. Schedule your

trail work day with the Adopt-a-Trail coordinator. **Locations:** Various trails are available for adoption.

Age of Volunteers: 12 yrs. and up

Number of Volunteers: Recruitment class determined by number of vacant trails.

#### Park Ambassador

May 2014-April 2015 Weekly inspections/ One-vear commitment

The Park Ambassador Program promotes community stewardship and bridges the communication between the community and our Department, and sends a message that the community cares about its parks.

Park Ambassadors become public stewards of the Bloomington **Duties:** 

Parks and Recreation Department. Through weekly visits to local parks, Ambassadors document maintenance needs, report acts of vandalism, interact with park users, promote park safety, and

encourage an overall positive use of public space. Volunteers must submit an online application by February 28; Time line: screening interviews take place in March; and orientation takes

place in April. One-year appointment starts May 1. Weekly visit requires approximately a one-hour assessment **Program Time:** 

followed by the completion of a brief observation report. Various parks are available. Locations:

Age of Volunteers: 21 yrs. and up Number of Volunteers: 1 volunteer per identified park





A Bloomington Youth Basketball coach teaches the fundamentals of basketball during

#### Bloomington Girls Softball

Time line:

April 6-June 30 Designed for the beginning through advanced player, this league focuses on responsible competition, including skill building and a complete understanding of the game. This league offers several levels of play

ranging from tee ball to fastpitch for players ages 4-15 yrs. Pitch, hit, field, and throw. Volunteers step up to **Duties:** 

the plate as a season-long coach and teach the fundamentals of fastpitch softball. Coaches plan practices by integrating various drills and prepare their teams for game competition. Here is your chance to put your mark on

tomorrow's athlete.

Prospective coaches must sign up by Friday, March 28. Coach selection process completed by Tuesday, April 2. Selected coaches must attend mandatory coaches training

on Sunday, April 6, 3 p.m. at Lower Cascades ballfields, 3601 N. Old State Road 37. In the event of rain, the meeting will be held at the same location as player evaluations. All selected coaches must complete an online coaching

Association (NYSCA). NYSCA certification must be completed by first practice. The certification fee for each coach is \$25. The online training is available at nays.org. Scholarships are available to offset expenses associated with the online training. For scholarship information, contact Jeigh Hockersmith at

certification course from the National Youth Sports Coaches

349-3774 or hockersj@bloomington.in.gov. Practices begin the week of April 14.

Program Time: Coaches will be assigned one or two one-hour practices per week and one, one-hour game per week. Looking for coaches in all age

groups. Must be willing to become NYSCA certified and work from a set practice schedule from April-June.

Winslow Sports Complex, S. Highland Ave. and Locations: Lower Cascades ballfields, 2851 N. Old State Rd. 37

Age of Volunteers: 18 yrs. and up Number of Volunteers: 30–35

#### **Bloomington Community** Farmers' Market

Saturdays. April 5-November 29

From April through November, farmers and vendors fill Showers Common with locally grown produce, annual and perennial plants, and freshly baked bread for the Saturday morning Market. Local musicians perform while thousands of people find their way among the corn and tomatoes, local dairy products, and warm scents of fresh herbs. The Market feels like equal parts shopping, socializing, and treasure hunt. Come early so you can amble among friends as you seek out that dried lavender or fresh basil you have been dreaming about. If you enjoy the ambiance of the Farmers' Market, this is the

volunteer opportunity for you! Work collaboratively with the Market supervisor with special events associated with Market and promote Bloomington Parks and Recreation programs by staffing

the Bloomington Parks and Recreation table.

**Program Time:** 9:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m. Showers Common, Eighth and Morton Streets Location:

Age of Volunteers: 18 yrs. and up Number of Volunteers: 1–4

Volunteer from one to four Saturdays a month. Other:

#### Tee Ball Sport Shorties Saturdays, April 26-June 7

Sport Shortie participants learn the basic skills of baseball in a fun and safe atmosphere where parent participation is welcomed and encouraged. **Duties:** Children experience the FUNdamentals of team sports

you may want to be a next generation IU coach?

introductory baseball program geared toward preschoolers. **Program Time:** Coaches assigned one, one-hour shift between 9 a.m.–2 p.m. Location:

Age of Volunteers: 18 yrs. and up Number of Volunteers: 15

Training:

## Leisure Companion

January-April

The Leisure Companion Program is a service in which participants with disabilities are partnered with a volunteer companion who provides additional support during participation in inclusive activities. The level of support will vary according to the specific needs of each individual

**Duties:** 

the participant, providing support during activities, protecting the dignity of the participant, emphasizing similarities of participants, creating an environment for success, encouraging independent

**Program Times:** Dates and times will vary according to program needs. Locations: Location of events and programs vary depending on program

registration. 16 yrs. and up

FARMERS' MARKET

at an early age. Are you a sports fanatic? Do you like children at the adorable ages of 3-6 yrs.? Do you think Here's your chance to help develop our next Albert Pujols. Derek Jeter, or Derrek Lee. Work with park staff to run an

Lower Cascades Park, 3601 N. Old State Rd. 37

Coaches Orientation: Thursday, April 24, 6-7 p.m. at the Banneker Community Center, 930 W. Seventh St.

As a Leisure Companion, you facilitate inclusion by advocating for

participation, and most of all, being a supportive friend!

Age of Volunteers: